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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,967	11/21/2003	Dong Won Kang	K-0556	8015
34610 7590 10/17/2007 KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP P.O. Box 221200 Chantilly, VA 20153-1200			EXAMINER LEE, KYUNG S	
			ART UNIT 2832	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,967

Applicant(s)

KANG, DONG WON

Examiner

K. Richard Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24 and 25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 11-18, 20, 22-23, 26-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10, 19 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 1-23 and 26-27 in the reply filed on 7/11/2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. This is not found persuasive because a knob device on a control panel is searched in class 200, however, washing machines have separate search class. Therefore, Applicants are placing undue burden on the examiner to search additional class or classes.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-18, 20, 22-23 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole, US Pat. 5,464,955 in view of Krueger et al., US Pat. 5,650,601.

Cole teaches a control panel assembly for a washing machine (figs. 1-3) comprising:

a board 28 with a switch 14 and parts (lights 16) mounted thereon;

a control panel 24 (shown in fig. 1A) installed at one side of a cabinet, wherein the control panel protects the board (panel covers the board);

a display plate 18 on the panel 24; and

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a knob 32 connected to the switch 14 to penetrate the control panel.

Cole teaches the claimed invention except for the rear end of the knob contacting the backside of the display plate or brought into line-contact with the backside of the display plate (as in claim 2).

Krueger displays a rotatable switch on a control panel (fig. 2) wherein the rear end of the knob (by reference no. 62) is brought into seal contact with the backside of the display plate 14 for the purpose of prevent entry of foreign matter (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the knob device of Cole with the seal contact teaching of Krueger since this would prevent entry of foreign matter internal to the control panel.

Regarding claims 3 and 13-14, Cole teaches the rear end surface of the knob and the backside of the control panel are arranged to differ in angles (referring to the cover fig.).

Regarding claims 4, 7, 11, 15-16, 18 and 22, Krueger teaches a flange 46 is in seal contact with the panel. The flange includes a cut-away 48.

Regarding claim 5, Kruger teaches the ribbed portion (no reference no.) shows differences in the "angles."

Regarding claims 6, 17 and 23, Cole teaches a support 36 in between the board 28 and the knob hold the knob at a slant (approx. 45 degrees) to the backside of the panel (perpendicular to the page). Cole discloses LED. LED is mounted via the support 36 (fig. 7).

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Regarding claims 9 and 20, Cole teaches the support encloses the switch (As much as to fig. 4 of the current invention, where the support encloses the front face of the switch but, further requires 140 to enclose the bottom of the switch.).

Regarding claims 26-27, they are as discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8, 10, 19, 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Richard Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on M and W-F from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


K. Richard Lee
Primary Examiner
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